

REMARKS

Claims 3, 4, 27 and 28-38 are presented for consideration, with Claims 3, 30 and 35 being independent.

Independent Claim 3 has been amended to further distinguish Applicant's invention from the cited art. In addition, Claims 29-38 have been added to provide an additional scope of protection. Claims 1, 2, 25 and 26 have been cancelled.

Claims 1, 3 and 25-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Jones '777. In addition, Claims 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Jones in view of Yokota '261. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 3 of Applicant's invention relates to an image display apparatus comprised of a hermetic container including, as constructive members, a first substrate and a second substrate opposite to each other, with an electrode having a specified electric potential, and an external frame disposed between the first substrate and the second substrate, and image display means and wiring for displaying disposed within the hermetic container. As amended, Claim 3 includes a conductive bonding member for sealing the first substrate and the external frame, with the bonding member extending from a sealing area between the first substrate and the external frame to the electrode to be in contact with the electrode. In addition, a frit separates the conductive bonding member from the wiring for displaying.

Support for the amendments to Claim 3 can be found, for example, on page 24, line 25, *et. seq.*, of the specification. In accordance with Applicant's claimed invention, a high performance image display apparatus is provided.

The primary citation to Jones relates to a field emission display spacer that includes top and bottom substrates 310, 110 supported by a spacer structure 200, and a conductive element 120 disposed on the bottom substrate. Figure 2 shows the spacer structure to include a conductive member 250 provided between two insulative members 212 and 214. Upper glass frit 220 and lower glass frit 230 are provided on either end of the spacer structure.

In contrast to Applicant's claimed invention, however, Jones fails to teach or suggest, among other features, a conductive bonding member that extends from a sealing area between the first substrate and the external frame to the electrode to be in contact with the electrode. To the contrary, in Jones the conductive member 250 is disposed between the insulative members. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

The secondary citation to Yokota relates to an image display apparatus and was cited for its teaching of a conductive member extending from a sealed area onto a substrate outside of the hermetic container. In this regard, Figure 34A shows a conductive member 42 provided within a sealing material 35. Yokota fails, however, to compensate for the deficiency in Jones with respect to Claim 3 as discussed above. Therefore, without conceding the propriety of combining Jones and Yokota in the manner proposed in the Office Action, such a combination still fails to teach or suggest Applicant's claimed invention. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 is also respectfully requested.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in independent Claim 3 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent Claims 4 and 27-29

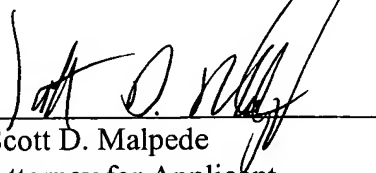
set forth additional features of Applicant's invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

New independent Claims 30 and 35 are also submitted to be patentable over the cited art. As in Claim 3, these claims include a conductive bonding member extending from a sealing area between the first substrate and the external frame to the electrode to come in contact with the electrode.

Due consideration and prompt passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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